

SWORN DECLARATION OF WALTER P. JONES JR.

STATE OF FLORIDA §
 §
 §
COUNTY OF COLUMBIA §

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746, I, Walter P. Jones, Jr, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct:

1. My name is Walter P. Jones, Jr.
2. I am more than eighteen years of age and am fully competent to make this affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth below.
3. I am 81 years old. I live in a trailer in Butler, FL. As I prepare this affidavit in April, it is currently 82 degrees outside and 90 degrees in my trailer. I usually leave the back door open to have better air circulation and better breathing.
4. The running water in my home is brown as it trickles out of the pipes. The faucet water is not healthy. It has a strong odor that makes me nauseous and stains the sink and tub brown and yellow. When we must use the faucet water, my wife and I have to first scrub the sink and tub vigorously to get the stains out.
5. In order to get water that is drinkable, I have to walk a quarter of a mile, with my cane, across a grassy field to reach the well. I do this once a day, as my energy allows. The walk is very physically demanding.
6. I pay very close attention to the weather reports in my area. The journey can become arduous when I factor in rain or thunderstorms. I stay ahead of the weather conditions because I will be in serious trouble if I don't. There is also no lighting in this area where I live so I walk to and back from the well before dark.
7. I don't complain about what I must do to stay alive. In the military, when I was serving during the Vietnam war, I walked the trails in the overwhelming heat daily. I was a Staff Sergeant (E-6) at that time and my work involved life or death. I just focused on my mission. I still do

Jones v. McDonough, #22-1216

Reply to Secretary's Response to the Petition for Writ of Mandamus - Exhibit A

when I set out to get our daily water: my work hauling water to my house every day is life or death. I was trained to survive under these conditions, but I realize I am no longer that Staff Sergeant E-6 that was accustomed to “humping a ruck” through the jungles. It is very physically demanding to walk so far with my cane for water. After I do, I stay in the bed for the rest of the day. I lay in bed because I am over extended.

8. The water quality in the well is barely acceptable in living standards. But it is what I have available. The 3-gallon container of water that I bring back home we use to brush our teeth, bathe, cook, and drink. It is not a desirable taste. It is sulfur water but at least it is somewhat clear.
9. If I was to get my VA disability claim granted, I would use this money to move to a home where I have running water that I can drink and use every day. I just want to have the bare necessities of life in a civilized western nation.
10. I need the VA disability benefits I earned by my service in Cambodia and Thailand during the Vietnam war simply to stay alive.

Executed on April 26, 2022

Signed electronically:

/s/ Walter P. Jones Jr.